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INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Tibet/China

DATE DISTR. 10 AUG 51

SUBJECT Situation in Tibet.

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INFO.

SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. After the death of the 13th Dalai Lama, under whom discipline was strictly enforced, the Tibetan army was neglected to the point that the officers, themselves of poor quality, had very little control of their men, and orders, when given, had little effect. In addition, the troops sent to some of the outlying provinces have, in many cases, been more of a burden on the people than a protection for them.
2. The inhabitants of the Kham area have, as a whole, been rather disaffected, primarily because many of the officials sent there have been unduly extortionate and the Lhasa Government has been unable to keep them under control. This may have inclined them to welcome the Chinese, without any question of Communism, of which they have had no knowledge or experience. The Khambas are, however, very religious, and for this reason might change their attitude toward the Chinese, when it was too late.
3. In Amdo, to the northeast, the Tibetan population had been severely oppressed by the Chinese Moslems under Ma Pu-fang, with the result that, though rather anti-Chinese, they welcomed the Communists, who gave them an opportunity to revenge themselves and kill many Moslems.
4. Even in the central provinces of Tibet, where the people are loyal to the Lhasa Government, which has been able to control the local officials, Chinese Communist propaganda has had some effect on the population at large. The novelty of the radio has inclined people to the belief that any information conveyed by this medium is true. As a result, the broadcasts from Hsining and Peiping, being the only ones received, have been accorded an uncritical acceptance.
5. On 30 October 1950 the Dalai Lama and leading officials decided to consult the State Oracle of Nechung, and a second oracle as well. The Nechung Oracle went into a trance but refused, with signs of anger, to give any advice, after which he left. The second oracle, after going into a trance, advised that the Regent resign and the Dalai Lama assume full powers. This advice had been given some months previously by the Nechung Oracle, but had been disregarded.

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On its confirmation by the second oracle, it was accepted, and the Regent forthwith retired, receiving a vote of thanks for his services.

6. In order to strengthen the Government, two new ministers were coopted, a monk and a layman, raising the number of ministers from four to six.
7. A curfew was imposed in Lhasa from 8 p.m. to 5 a.m., and arrangements were made to have the city streets patrolled by one of the two best regiments, as precautions against plundering by unruly elements during a period of general confusion.

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